GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5304
ANSWERED ON:05.05.2008
STATE COOPERATIVES
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Singh Shri Chandra Bhushan;Verma Shri Ravi Prakash

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government have been asked by the Government to democratise the cooperatives;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether certain States have urged the Government to strengthen the cooperative movement and spread the cooperative activities to hitherto untouched areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and action plan formulated by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) & (b): Yes, Sir.Planning Commission appointed a Committee in the year 1990 under the Chairmanship of Late Chowdhury Brahm Perkash to suggest a Model Act on Cooperatives. The Committee submitted its report in May, 1991, recommending, inter-alia, a Model Cooperatives Act. The thrust of the recommendations of the committee, is to democratise the management of cooperatives and to enable them to function as autonomous and self-reliant institutions. The report of the Committee was circulated to all the states. A Conference of the State Cooperative Ministers was held way back in July, 1992 to discuss the Model Cooperatives Act as recommended by the Committee. The Conference accepted the recommendations of the Committee, in principle. Since then, it has been the effort of the Government to persuade the staes to democratize the cooperative.

Lastly, a conference of the State Cooperative Ministers was held on 7th December, 2004 to consider the the amendments in the Constitution in respect of cooperatives. The Conference adopted a resolution approving the amendment to the constitution to ensure the democratic, autonomous and professional functioning of the cooperatives.The Constitution (One Hundred and Sixth Amendment) Bill, 2006 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on 22nd May, 2006 addressing the key issues for the empowerment of the co-operatives through their voluntary formation, autonomous functioning, democratic control and professional management.

(c) & (d) : Government of India,in consultation with the State Governments, constituted a Task Force on revival of rural cooperative credit institutions in August, 2004 under the Chairmanship of Prof. A. Vaidyanathan to formulate a practical and implementable action plan to rejuvenate the rural cooperatives. The Task Force submitted its report to the Government of India in February, 2005. The Government have accepted the recommendations of the Task Force in principle and the same were discussed with the State Governments and a consensus was arrived at, based on which Government approved a revival package. The package was circulated to the State Governments and Union Territories seeking their concurrence for implementing the package. 20 states, i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhatisgarh, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Rajasthan, Orissa, Punjab, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh & West Bengal have signed Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs).